



About the MCoE Band.

» Press Kit. «



OUR HISTORY.

For more than 50 years, the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band (283rd Army Band) has taken great pride in entertaining the Soldiers, families and civilians of the Fort Benning, Columbus and Phenix City communities. The band's performances create esprit de corps among Soldiers and veterans, and foster the patriotic spirit within the civilian community.

The 283rd Army Band's history dates back to 1916 when the band was first organized in El Paso, Texas, as the 34th Infantry Band, of the 34th Infantry Regiment. During its time with the regiment, the band earned campaign participation credit in World War I at Lorraine, France. Later, the band moved to Fort Benning, Ga., and served for many years until it was inactivated in June of 1940.

In October of 1942, the band was reactivated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and aligned with the 136th Infantry Regiment. The band once again supported overseas efforts during wartime. It was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, and then at Luzon, Manila, in the Philippines. In December of 1946, the band was deactivated.

After several reorganizations and re-designations throughout the 1940s, the band was activated for the final time in 1955 at Fort Benning as the 283rd Army Band. In 2009, with the looming transition of the Armor School from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning and the creation of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, the band was officially designated as the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band.

Currently, the MCoE Band, with its Ceremonial Band and nine musical performance teams, accomplishes more than 400 missions annually in support of military and civilian communities across Georgia.



MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning is the Army's leader in innovation as we support an Army at war and prepare for the future. The mission of the MCoE is to provide trained, agile, adaptive and ready Soldiers and leaders for an Army at war, while developing capabilities for the Maneuver Force and the individual Soldier, and providing world-class quality of life for our Soldiers, civilians and Army families.

HOME OF ARMOR AND INFANTRY

All Armor and Infantry Soldiers start their Army journey at Fort Benning. We are responsible for training and leader development of every Armor and Infantry Soldier — from private to colonel. These Soldiers are trained to be agile, adaptive, confident, instinctive and ready Soldiers and leaders.

Find out more at our official website
www.benning.army.mil

"Like" us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fortbenningfans

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For event scheduling: 706.545.2238

The MCoE Band.

» Nine groups, one mission. «



The Maneuver Center of Excellence Band is a versatile musical blend of talent. In addition to its function as a large ceremonial band, the band has nine musical performance teams. Each specializes in a genre or style of music. From rock band to jazz to brass quintet, this band is more than the sum of its parts.



» REQUEST THE BAND.



The MCoE Band and Musical Performance Teams are available for events all around the country. To request them for your event, contact the Fort Benning Public Affairs' Community Relations Officer at (706) 545-2238 or by email at bradley.k.castleberry.civ@mail.mil.

EQUIPMENT AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS (STAGE PLOT).

Typical sound reinforcement needs are accomplished through the group's Fender Passport system with three microphones and two speakers. Depending upon the venue's size, additional sound reinforcement may be needed.



'Big Nasty' Brass Band.

» Musical Performance Team. «

WHO WE ARE.

The Big Nasty Brass Band is a versatile and high energy Music Performance Team of the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band. BNBB, formed in May 2011, finds its roots in New Orleans music of all types. This lively group provides music ranging from Dixieland and brass band second line tradition to modern funky brass, zydeco rock, blues and swing.

Musical influences include the Rebirth and Youngblood Brass Bands, Trombone Shorty, Dixie Power Trio and traditional New Orleans musicians, from Louis Armstrong to Wynton Marsalis. The group consists of eight versatile musicians, including several vocalists, brass, woodwinds and a rhythm section. BNBB strives to incorporate a wide variety of American music genres, including country, rock, rhythm and blues, funk and hip hop into a cohesive and entertaining blend.

Additionally, the band is capable of performing military ceremonial music, polka music and chamber music by converting to a brass quintet with a percussion section. This group is portable and mobile, capable of quick set-up in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor venues.



» POPULAR SONG CHOICES:

The Chicken
Mardi Gras in New Orleans
Human Nature
You Are My Sunshine



» Play. Work. Music. Live.



WHAT'S WITH THE NAME?

The Big Nasty Brass Band derives its name from the "Big Nasty" M1 Abrams Tank positioned at the main gate of Fort Benning, Ga.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE TEAMS

The Maneuver Center of Excellence Band encompasses the Ceremonial Band and nine musical performance teams.

THE 'BIG 5' MPT's ARE:

- Big Nasty Brass Band
- Benning Brass (Brass Quintet)
- Ear Assault! (Brass Quintet)
- Latin Fire (Latin Band)
- Weapons of Mass Distraction (Rock Band)

ROUNDING OUT THE '9':

- Concert/Stage Band
- Jazz Combos
- Bugle Support
- Solo Piano

Benning Brass & Ear Assault!

» Musical Performance Teams. «



BENNING BRASS.

Benning Brass is one of two brass quintets in the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band. Formed in April 2012, Benning Brass performs extensively at ceremonies and events throughout the Fort Benning and Columbus, Ga. area. Benning Brass is a versatile ensemble capable of performing a variety of genres and styles of music to include classical, jazz, Dixieland and marches.

» POPULAR SONG CHOICES:

America The Beautiful
Army Strong
Bombasto
Belgian March
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square

EAR ASSAULT!

Ear Assault! is the second brass quintet in the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band. Previously known as Star Chamber Brass, this group's new name reflects its high-volume brass sound. This group gains musical inspiration from groups such as Canadian Brass and Mnozil Brass, while adding a patriotic military flair.

Ear Assault! performs in various musical styles including classical, jazz, pop and ceremonial music for military balls, schools, special events and holiday programs. Ear Assault! strives to put on a program that's both entertaining and memorable to our youngest audience members, with selections such as "Cartoon Symphony" and "Disney's The Incredibles" to more cultured selections from Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood" and Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik."

» POPULAR SONG CHOICES:

God Bless America
Can-Can
Beer Barrel Polka
Fairest of the Fair
Liberty Bell





Latin Fire & WMD.

» Musical Performance Teams. «

LATIN FIRE.

The hot Latin sounds of Latin Fire have earned this band a reputation as the Fort Benning and local community's premiere Latin band. Their spicy blend of music and musicians perform at Army unit events, outreach missions, community festivals, VA hospitals and Sea World's Viva La Musica Festival. But the band is at home wherever a dance floor can be cleared. Fueled by a fiery rhythm section and high-octane horns, Latin Fire plays a wide variety of Latin style, from Plena to Reggaeton to Salsa and Merengue.



» POPULAR SONG CHOICES:

Ella Lo Que Quiere Es Salsa
Victor Manuelle

Linda Eh
Grupo Mania

Mala
Willyton

No Te Veo
Jowell y Randy

Lo Que Paso Paso
Daddy Yankee

Y Tu Loco Loco
Roberto Roena

Carnaval
Celia Cruz

Incondicional
Prince Royce

WEAPONS OF MASS DISTRACTION.

The MCoE Band's rock combo Weapons of Mass Distraction was formed in October of 2011. This four-man group is an energenic team of talented musicians playing "everything that rocks" from the classic rock of the '60s and '70s to the hits of the '80s and '90s and all things modern. Past events have included football tailgates, farewells, and annual Octoberfest and Independence Day events at Fort Benning.

» POPULAR SONG CHOICES:

We Are Young - fun.

Whipping Post - The Allman Brothers

Good Times, Bad Times - Led Zeppelin

Everybody Talks - Neon Trees

1901 - Phoenix





MCoE Band Command Team.

» Biographies.«

CWO 3 Jeremiah Keillor, Commander and Conductor



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremiah Keillor is a native of Los Fresnos, Texas. He is a graduate of Texas A&I University, where he double majored in Instrumental and Vocal Music Education.

Keillor's Army career began in 1993 when he enlisted as a French Horn player and attended the Armed Forces School of Music. His first assignment was with the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band at Fort Carson, Colo. Later assignments included the 98th Army Band at Fort Rucker, Ala.; the 77th Army Band at Fort Sill, Okla.; and the 9th Army Band at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

After rising to the rank of staff sergeant, Keillor was accepted into the Army Band Warrant Officer Program and attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course. Prior to commanding the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band, he commanded the 113th Army Band, of Fort Knox, Ky., and the 1st Infantry Division Band, of Fort Riley, Kan.

In January 2010, Keillor deployed to Basra, Iraq, with the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion. The 1st Infantry Division Band performed a wide variety of missions across the U.S. Division-South footprint in support of U.S. troops, multi-national forces,

state department personnel and local nationals.

His military education includes the Primary Leadership Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, Warrant Officer Candidate Course and the Warrant Officer Basic Course.

In addition to his military service, Keillor is an active community volunteer, serving as a volunteer coach for numerous post and community baseball and soccer teams as well as umpiring Little League Baseball.

He serves as the orchestra director for Wynnbrook Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal (fourth award), National Defense Service Medal with one star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with number three device, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon with the numeral two device.

1st Sgt. Wesley Nikitiuk, First Sergeant and Bandleader



First Sergeant Wesley Nikitiuk is the enlisted bandleader of the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band and is responsible for the training and mission readiness of the 44-Soldier Army Band.

Born in Poland, Nikitiuk holds a Master of Arts Degree in Bassoon Performance from the Academy of Music in Wroclaw, Poland.

Prior to enlisting in the Army, he was a musician performing in orchestras and operas across the U.S. and Europe, including the Bayreuth Wagner Festival Orchestra in Germany, Wroclaw Philharmonic in Poland and the Colorado Springs Symphony in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was a faculty member for Colorado College and an

instructor at the Armed Forces School of Music.

Nikitiuk has held numerous musical, leadership and staff positions at all levels with Army bands. His military education includes the Professional Leaders Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course and the First Sergeant Course. He is a graduate of the Army's Combat Lifesaver Course, Navy Instructor Course and Curriculum Development Course.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the German Schutzenschnur in Silver, a German badge for weapons proficiency.